

weight of the scientific evidence concerning such risks.”

For too long, documents and studies have been produced that do not reflect science, but rather a given policy bias mixed with elements of science. These documents and studies are then paraded forward as if they are risk assessments. This sense of Congress specifically finds such an approach unacceptable. I want to note that use of the weight of the scientific evidence is a specific recommendation in the 1997 Final Report of the Presidential/Congressional Commission on Risk Assessment and Risk Management. On page 4 of that report the Commission states: “A good risk management decision . . . is based on a careful analysis of the weight of scientific evidence that supports conclusions about a problem’s potential risks to human health and the environment.” On page 23 of that report the Commission states: “Making judgments about risk on the basis of scientific information is called ‘evaluating the weight of the evidence.’ . . . It is important that risk assessors respect the objective scientific basis of risk and procedures for making inferences in the absence of adequate data.” On page 38 of that report the Commission states: “Risk assessors and economists are responsible for providing decision-makers with the best technical information available or reasonably attainable, including evaluations of the weight of the evidence that supports different assumptions and conclusions.”

It is important the Federal agencies conform their risk assessment practices to these principles.

HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the disaster along our Gulf Coast has wrought heart-breaking devastation on a scale too staggering to comprehend. I rise to join my colleagues in extending deepest sympathies to all those who have been struck by this catastrophe. Our hearts go out to all those who are suffering.

First and foremost, we must provide effective and immediate relief to our neighbors who are the victims of this tragedy. Federal authorities must render all assistance necessary in this overwhelming national crisis.

Congress has already taken the needed steps to ensure that funds are available for assistance. This is only the beginning of relief, and when more is needed, we will provide whatever is required.

We in the San Francisco Bay Area know first hand the impact of natural disaster, and we stand ready to help. I am encouraged by the support being shown by people in the Bay Area. Emergency volunteers have been dispatched. Hundreds of survivors will be housed in San Francisco’s St. Mary’s Cathedral. California schools are opening their doors as well. In my district, Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont has offered to take in 50 displaced students. The California State Universities, the University of California at Berkeley, and Stanford are accepting others. Many people have given, and will continue to give, to established relief agencies at this critical time.

As the Ranking Member of the House International Relations Committee, I also want to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to our friends in the world community who have pledged to help. Secretary General Kofi Annan has acknowledged American generosity in helping others, and he has graciously offered the assistance of the United Nations in our time of need. The leaders of a broad array of countries have expressed their condolences and extended offers of aid.

All Americans can be proud of the hard and sometime heart-rending work being done by local, state and federal emergency workers now on the scene of the disaster. But it seemed that immediate emergency action arrived in slow motion last week when it was so desperately needed. Those who were watching the news reports, as well as those who were hurting in the midst of the devastation, were united in one question: Why did the rescue efforts take so long? Now other questions are beginning to arise. We must answer them in order to do better in the event of another emergency. Even the President indicates that the response to this one has been less than acceptable.

When the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was formed in 2002, I voiced concern about folding into it the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). After failing to adequately respond to Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and Hurricane Andrew in 1992, FEMA had reestablished itself as a singularly responsive federal agency by clearly defining its mission and aggressively pursuing it. It was not helpful to change its structure and culture only a few years later in order to fit into the massive and newly created Department.

I believe our primary purpose in establishing the DHS was to better protect the nation through better prevention and response to catastrophe. We have yet to demonstrate improved prevention, and in this case our response has been pathetically sluggish. Confusion and lack of leadership dominate our efforts. I call on President Bush to take swift action to relieve FEMA Director Michael Brown of his duties.

I also join with Ranking Members WAXMAN, OBERSTAR, and THOMPSON in requesting that the committees of jurisdiction, the Committee on Government Reform, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Homeland Security, conduct hearings on the questions raised in responding to Hurricane Katrina.

And finally, I advocate the establishment of a blue ribbon, non-partisan committee on the scope and with the clout of the 9–11 Commission to prepare a long-range and thorough investigation into this matter, in order to lay out the lessons learned. We need to find out what went wrong, what went right, and what we can do how we can do to brace for a future disaster. We need to ensure that a similar natural event, or even a major terrorist attack, is not made any worse by our own failure to respond with speed, efficiency, and real compassion rather than rhetoric.

Mr. Speaker, let’s work together to help our neighbors and friends whose lives stood in the path of destruction. And let’s do a better job of shielding our nation against such events.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF
CUBAN BOLLERO SINGER
IBRAHIM FERRER

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of legendary Cuban musician Ibrahim Ferrer, who died Saturday August 6, after suffering multiple organ failure.

Ibrahim Ferrer was at the center of the Buena Vista Social Club, a phenomenon that brought long delayed international fame to a group of older Cuban musicians thanks to a Grammy-winning 1997 album produced by Ry Cooder and a subsequent film by Wim Wenders, both by that name. Besides offering American audiences a musician’s-eye view of Cuba, the film created a recognition of Mr. Ferrer as an unlikely musical icon.

Mr. Ferrer’s story is particularly inspiring to me because it speaks to the limitless possibilities of talent and chance. He was a gifted musician but of all the larger-than-life personalities that make up the Buena Vista Social Club, Ibrahim Ferrer seemed the least likely to emerge as an international superstar. Yet within three years of his first international tours with the Afro-Cuban All Stars outside of Cuba in 1996, Mr. Ferrer was filling the world’s great venues and receiving rapturous ovations from audiences for whom he had become the embodiment—the heart and soul—of the multi-million-selling Buena Vista phenomenon.

Mr. Ferrer, a bolero singer who was compared to Nat King Cole, was born in Santiago in eastern Cuba on February 20, 1927, and began singing professionally in 1941. In the 1950s, he was an established singer who performed with well-known Cuban bands, including that of the legendary Benny More. But sadly, Ferrer was a forgotten name by the mid-1990s, supplementing a meager state pension by shining shoes. He was lifted from obscurity by the 1997 Buena Vista Social Club recording brought together by Texas guitarist Ry Cooder that shot a group of vintage Cuban musicians to international fame and an unexpected second career.

Mr. Ferrer was a man who was full of life and energy. Even in his seventies he could still salsa dance with the best of them. He was a musical powerhouse and an animated figure that clearly enjoyed performing Cuba’s traditional “son” music of the 1940s and 1950s for new generations of fans.

I extend my condolences to his lovely wife and six children. Mr. Ferrer and his music are truly an inspiration to both Cubans and people throughout the world. His life and music are a testament to the vibrancy and resilience of Cuban people.

Creating some of Cuba’s most rhythmic and dynamic music, Mr. Ferrer accomplished an enormous feat because despite the constraints of the U.S. embargo, his music was able to break through and Americans responded to it with overwhelming enthusiasm. His life legacy as a musician demonstrate the kind of beauty and musical genius that can come out of a relationship with Cuba and it is my hope that the failed U.S. embargo against Cuba will be lifted soon to permit the enrichment of an enhanced cultural exchange to the benefit of the people

of Cuba and the U.S. Mr. Ferrer paved the way for generations of Cuban singers to come and it is my hope that their music will continue to reach the hearts of Americans and people throughout the world.

I would like to submit for the RECORD an obituary from the August 8th edition of the New York Times.

[From the New York Times, August 8, 2005]

IBRAHIM FERRER, 78, CUBAN SINGER IN
"BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB," DIES
(By Ben Ratliff)

Ibrahim Ferrer, the Cuban singer whose life included one of popular music's most triumphant second acts, died on Saturday in Havana. He was 78. The cause was multiple organ failure, his manager, Carmen Romero, announced.

Mr. Ferrer was at the center of the Buena Vista Social Club, a phenomenon that brought long-delayed international fame to a group of older Cuban musicians thanks to a Grammy-winning 1997 album produced by Ry Cooder and a subsequent film by Wim Wenders, both by that name. Besides offering American audiences a musician's-eye view of Cuba, the film set up Mr. Ferrer as a particularly sympathetic figure—tall, distinguished and lively, an excellent bolero singer who used space and silence in his relaxed elegant delivery to increase the drama, a man who had been rolled over by history and was now simply trying to enjoy an absurdly lucky situation.

At the time that he was enticed out of retirement to make the album, Mr. Ferrer was living on a small state pension and shining shoes in Havana for extra money.

He was not interested in recording anymore; he had retired from singing in 1991.

"An angel came and picked me up and said, 'Chico, come and do this record,' "he said in 1998. "I didn't want to do it, because I had given up on music."

Born in 1927 at a social club dance in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba—his mother went into labor on a night out—Mr. Ferrer's first professional involvement with music came at age 13, a year after he became an orphan, when he joined a band, Los Jóvenes del Son.

Later he sang with groups that included Conjunto Sorpresa, the Orquesta Chapin Chovén (with which he had a local hit, "El Platanal de Bartolo," in 1955) and the Beny Moré orchestra, with which he was a background vocalist; in 1953 he began working with Pacho Alonso's band, Maravilla de Beltrán, in Santiago. The band later moved from Santiago to Havana and called itself Los Bocucos.

For most of his career Mr. Ferrer generally sang up-tempo numbers, guarachas and sones, not the slow romantic boleros, even though he loved them. But his chance finally came on "The Buena Vista Social Club," when Mr. Cooder and Juan de Marcos González, the album's musical director, persuaded him to sing songs like "Dos Gardenias," which he had learned decades before when singing with Moré.

In 1998, the Cuban Egrem label released "Tierra Caliente," an album of older songs he had made with Los Bocucos. In 1999 the British World Circuit label (with Nonesuch in the United States) released Mr. Ferrer's first solo album, and in 2003 his second, "Buenos Hermanos"; both were produced by Mr. Cooder. In "Buenos Hermanos" Mr. Cooder took more artistic liberties, stirring the very un-Cuban accordion and the gospel singing group the Blind Boys of Alabama into the mix.

Though by this time he was in his 70's, Mr. Ferrer won a Latin Grammy for Best New Artist in 2000. "Buenos Hermanos" won a

Grammy for Best Traditional Tropical Latin Album of 2003, but Mr. Ferrer was denied a visa to enter the United States for the awards ceremony last year.

His last performance in New York was in April 2003. He was on a European tour in the week leading up to his death.

Mr. Ferrer is survived by his wife, Caridad Díaz, 6 children, 14 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, Ms. Romero said.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SAN LORENZO HOMES ASSOCIATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 10, 2005, the San Lorenzo Homes Association in San Lorenzo, California will celebrate 60 years as one of the oldest homeowners' associations in the United States.

During World War II, thousands came to the San Francisco Bay Area to work in the shipyards. In response to the need for housing, David D. Bohannon purchased rich farmland south of the San Lorenzo Creek where abundant fruit and vegetable crops were grown.

On May 18, 1944, builders broke ground on the first home in the Village tracts, which launched the wartime construction of the planned community. Bohannon applied a mass production method, the reverse of the normal prefab process, by moving the factory to the housing site. Each worker was trained to do a single part of the job. The assembled houses rolled off the line at the rate of one every seven hours.

The first houses had a "war worker's room" with a separate entrance to help meet the housing shortage. The 1945 three-bedroom homes were priced at \$5,950. Some rented for \$55 per month. With the slogan "Every Lot a Garden Spot" and In-Door-Outdoor Living, San Lorenzo Village grew at the rate of 1,329 houses per project.

Land was set aside for schools, churches, stores, parks, restaurants, a movie theater and the Nimtez Freeway, which was built in 1953. The construction headquarters was turned into a playground, community hall and the San Lorenzo Homeowners' Association offices.

The Association is controlled by a board of directors elected annually on staggered terms of three years each. The first meeting was held on April 5, 1945. After a few months, with the number of homes increasing so rapidly, it became apparent that it was necessary to have paid employees to devote their full time to Homes' Association work.

Through the years, the Association, with its volunteer Board of Directors and professional management, has been successful in ensuring the appearance, safety, and financial accountability of San Lorenzo Village.

Since 1945, San Lorenzo Village has grown from its original 1,329 homes to 5,686. The value of San Lorenzo Village homes has increased over eight thousand percent over the past sixty years.

I have a personal connection to the San Lorenzo Homes Association. My wife, Deborah Roderick Stark, was born in San Lorenzo and her parents, Frank and Mary Roderick, are long-time residents and members of the Association.

On behalf of the Roderick and Stark families, I applaud the exemplary contributions of the San Lorenzo Homes Association. The Association has demonstrated its leadership to maintain the integrity of this planned community and its commitment to quality service delivery to meet the needs of Village residents.

IN CELEBRATION OF 43 YEARS OF JAMAICAN INDEPENDENCE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous contributions that Jamaican Americans have made to our society and to join with them in celebrating their 43rd anniversary of independent rule on August 6, 2005.

Jamaicans have been immigrating to the United States for centuries and have undeniably left their mark on cities throughout our Nation. Their contributions can be seen at the center of our neighborhoods and industries, everywhere from New York to California. They are skilled business people, engineers, doctors, lawyers, and have produced some of our Nation's greatest leaders including former Secretary of State, General Colin Powell, and basketball star Patrick Ewing.

Despite the many challenges that this group has faced both in Jamaica and the U.S. they continue to hold fast to the Jamaican spirit of perseverance and continue in an extraordinary way to defy the odds. Theirs is a history of an effort that while marked with a host of successes and some failures, just like all nations, has shown that Jamaica is in a much better position today than when it became the first English-speaking Caribbean nation to assume the responsibility of nationhood.

Jamaica's record has proven that a relatively small but powerful nation can take charge of its own affairs and be a vital and vibrant member of the international community. Instead of tearing itself apart as other developing and developed nations have done, Jamaica and Jamaicans have held firm through thick and thin.

Having earned its place among the best-known developing countries at the United Nations, whether in international diplomacy, culture or excellence in sports Jamaica has been able to move far forward. Today, its people enjoy some of the longest life spans in the Western Hemisphere, about 74 years, poverty has dropped dramatically in recent years, educational opportunities continue to escalate, demonstrating the nation's commitment to invest in its people's future.

Jamaica has come so very far in the last 43 years and I look forward to its continued growth and prosperity in the future. Jamaica and Jamaicans will always hold a special place in my heart. It is impossible to imagine New York or Harlem without the contributions of Jamaicans. They are an ever-present and important part of our community from whom a great deal of our Nation's diversity is derived.

I would like to submit the following statement from Jamaican Prime Minister P.J. Patterson to commemorate this historic occasion.